On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Website: www.arubatoday.com Thursday, November 5, 2009

Exploring the "new normal"

Dr. Ryan Peterson of Aruba addresses the issues of business intelligence at SITE 2009



President of the University of business press. Aruba.

Dr. Peterson is well qualified to discourse on the topic "Thriving Turbulence: Hyper-Competitive Environments," as he holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's in Organization Science, and a PhD in Economics, with a double specialization in Governance and Information Management. He has traveled to over forty countries and worked across several continents. His portfolio spans over fifteen years as strategy consultant, business researcher and strategic adviser for several companies and countries. His papers and articles have appeared in seventy publications; both international academic and

His presentation to SITE delegates went far beyond the incentive travel business, examining sound practices for all companies seeking to succeed in a world where constant innovation reinvention is a must in maintaining a prosperous enterprise. Those that cannot adjust to this new requirement of flexibility will fall by the wayside.

"The new normal is new regulations with a tweet... an increasing need to save and investing in anything green... more diversity and due diligence on Facebook," asserts Dr. Peterson, "it grows incrementally and has no mercy."

Continued on Next Page

Tierra del Sol hosts wildest Halloween party







WEST PUNT - Aruba's wildest Halloween Ball unfolded at Tierra del Sol around the clubhouse and surrounding gardens, under the stars on Halloween night.

See Pages 8 & 9





host over the weekend of October 30 to November 2 of the annual international conference of the Society of Incentive and Travel Executives; SITE 2009. The conference included site inspections, workshops and educational lectures, and events that showcased Aruba for hundreds of delegates

from around the world.

Attendees had a choice of several lectures Saturday, October 31, which addressed issues of motivation at work,

business intelligence and

professional savvy. One of

the more applauded speakers proved to be Aruba's own

Dr. Ryan Peterson, Founding

Dean of the Department of Tourism Studies and ViceThursday, November 5, 2009 LOCAL

Aruba_TODAY

Exploring the "new normal" Continued from Front Page



with tenacity is a must, and this is universal, not only applicable to the tourism Information continents, "and you will find it captured in a Netbook. It is like a river, constantly in flux and flow, with different, unexpected and deeply interconnected currents contributing to its power and prowess." "Normalcy is what people call "normal" when they no longer take reality for granted," explains Dr. Peterson, showing a graph that reveals the reporting of UFO sightings has increased astronomically since the "global financial crisis." Perhaps such things are stress related, and the populous is very stressed right now on every socio-economic

level. He feels it is "no surprise the word reappeared after the recent G20 summit... people crave stability and predictability - in short, they want normalcy." However, "what will a new "normal" economy look like after one of the biggest busts in recent decades?" he asks.

Recently released data from the U.S. has the world hopeful of economic recovery, but along with many economists, Dr. Peterson warns caution. Consumer spending, which drives western economies, has plunged, and despite encouraging information, people remain frugal, devastated by the loss of retirement incomes and pension fund investments, as well as unemployment figures

which continue to grow. "Tourist spending and local consumption is dwindling, but the cost of business isn't... Social and environmental infrastructures require immediate resuscitation, with a deficit that won't vanish overnight" he warns. "Governments in conjunction with private and non-governmental agencies need to pull off a 'Harry Houdini' of several tricky strategies simultaneously, including shoring up demand now, without wrecking public finances. Governments need to diversify without destroying, and develop diligently in order not to dive into deeper debt. They need to contain unemployment without inhibiting the shift of workers from old tired industries to new emerging ones. More than anything else, governments need to foster productivity and innovation, the ultimate engines of growth," he concludes.

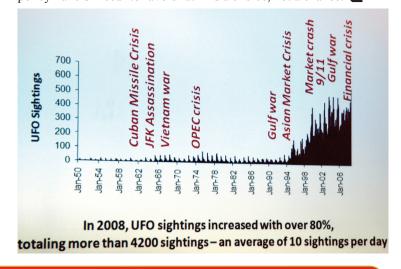
Industries and companies need to adhere to these same principles. "Copying what your competition does best will not keep you ahead of the game; nor will continuing with old practices and simply raising prices, as American Express did," pointed out Dr. Peterson. Paying more for the same service will only drive

clients to a hungry new company that will deliver more "bang for the buck." Today's consumer is very aware. They examine closely the quality of service they receive, and expect more as they know their business is valuable in these difficult times.

"Furthermore, due to the nature of islands (more so than in large countries), high and persistent unemployment can do lasting damage, as people lose their skills and their social ties, which are so important to island societies," concludes Dr. Peterson. "Persistent damage to small island economies results in sluggish development, long-term losses, lazy markets, diminished expectations, and an overall social entropy... This is what policymakers need to avoid at

all costs. Furthermore, the social (non-economic) implications and effects of financial foreclosures and economic recessions are often forgotten, down-played and neglected, and certainly ill-understood by governments and enterprises, until it's too late and the 'ugly new normal' rears its head."

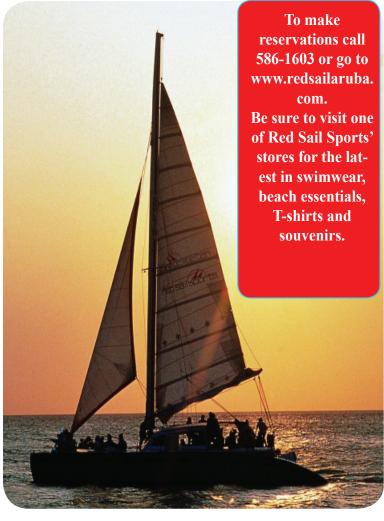
Summarizing, Dr. Peterson defined the "New Normal as "pervasive and elusive. The new normal is shaping up, and it is settling in. It is thinking with tenacity and acting today. The new normal is working together for building better communities and smarter economies. The new normal is taking responsibility and giving the future a chance. It is realizing that your destination is a choice, not a chance."



Every Friday The Mexican Fiesta Dinner Sail is a must do activity

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Gari & Wasabi defies the laws of night life.....



NOORD - On any given weekend whether there is something special going on or not the regular party goers leaves there house around midnight energized and ready to party the night away. This past Saturday on Halloween evening Aruba's only Caribbean Japanese fusion restaurant Gari and Wasabi Sushi Lounge located in Palm Beach was not set out

to compete with all the many parties going on the Island, but was set out to be different and the talk once again of the town. You couldn't go anywhere on the Island and not hear about the warm up party organized by Gari & Wasabi, with a special menu set for the night with a perfect price for Halloween 66.66 per couple. Walking in the restaurant you would be greeted by the ever charming





Owners Izaira Mansur and Berhjeny Perez both in their ravishing costumes, Izaira as a mid century venetian Ghost and Berhjeny as the lovely Genie of I dream of Genie. From old school pimps to sexy army recruiter to snow white everybody was dressed for the occasion. Gari & Wasabi defied the laws of night life by having everybody come out of there houses early in the evening all dolled up and made up to start the evening out with them, whether you were planning to go to the Village, Senro Frogs or to Kiladres your first stop had to be the warm up party at the Sushi lounge.

Manager Orlando Naya made sure everybody's glasses were always full and never half empty, for some Veuve Clicquot Champagne was the drink of the night and for other Black Label was the must have scotch.

Gari & Wasabi with and elegant urban shick setting, you are always to feel at home and part of the family whether it's Orlando, Izaira or Berhjeny you are bound to see some one of management that will always greet you with a smile and welcome you. Stay tuned for the next event, Gari & Wasabi Sushi Lounge for the ones who dare to be and eat different.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



















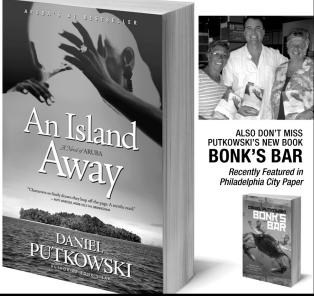
** ** "A must-read, no-holds-barred look at Aruba." — LAGO-COLONY.com

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Students of International School of Aruba celebrate United Nations Day



WAYAKA International School of Aruba has many ethnic group and cultures present at its Aruba campus. On occasion of the United Nations Anniversary, Parents Teachers Association (PTA) of the school decided to







celebrate the U.N. Day at the school whereby the children will learn more about the other cultures.

ISA students supported by their parents and teachers put up different country tables to display the culture, traditions and food of these countries. A cleverly designed passport was printed for each child with all their details and they all got an immigration stamp from the tables visited by them.

Also there was a parade with national flags of 26 different nationalities followed a cultural show. Also the Minister nominated Education Mr. Arthur Dowers motivated the students with his guest speech. What a way to let youngsters learn about the different countries and their cultures and the importance of United Nations.

Accompanying pictures show a glimpse of the festival.









THE AUDIO VISUAL PROVIDER

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Body & Soul spa Introduces Mid-Week Escapes





TIERRA DEL SOL – Body & new, mid-week escapes, for Soul spa has just introduces value-conscious spa lovers.







The attractive specials also include the use of the beautiful spa facilities -- gym, steam room, sauna, pool and Jacuzzi. Pictured here the dedicated therapists of Body & Soul Spa receiving a seasonal refresher course by an expert trainer from WTS International, who spent two full days reviewing customer services, spa rituals, professional protocol, and the menu of creative activities.

WTS International, a spa consulting firm provides services to hundreds of spas in the US and the Caribbean. The knowledgeable WTS trainers helped Body & Soul spa achieve its favorable position as one of the most popular on the island.

Spa Manager Orly Valor and her skilled and practiced staff members work hard to create a consistently relaxing and enjoyable environment for club members, Tierra del Sol guests, day spa users, community residents, and other patrons.

The spa also offers Spa Night opportunities for small groups of friends and wedding parties which can be catered with hors d'oeuvres, by Ventanas cocktails, champagne, and del Mar restaurant.



Abstract Dawn premiering at Bugaloe

Live on stage at the after party of Beach Volleyball Event



PALM BEACH – The popular formation Abstract Dawn will premier at Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill this upcoming Sunday November 8th during the 4th edition of Bugaloe's Beach Volleyball Event. Entrance is free and everybody is invited.

AbstractDawnisthesuccessful result of teaming up top

music talents. Singer Lucre Houtman is the lead vocal and will steel your heart with her beautiful natural sound. Martin Buitenweg (guitar), Jair Britten, Jose Houtman (both world-percussion) and key board player Hildward Croes are generally considered top performers and they know how to entertain the crowd. Together they have put together a smashing act which will for sure be the highlight of Bugaloe's Beach Volleyball Event.

"We are very excited to have Abstract Dawn at Bugaloe. We know it's a great match. Our customers love their



music style and Bugaloe is just the perfect place for top musicians to perform on stage," Bugaloe's

manager Myrthe Veltman says. "Abstract Dawn will perform one Sunday every month at Bugaloe, starting this week. The other Sunday nights will be for Tsunami, Robert Jeand'or and Marisela & Aquarius. So, every Sunday at 6pm we will have a top act on stage," she smiles.

This Sunday will be the 4th edition of the flourishing Bugaloe Beach Volleyball Tournament. Locals and tourists are teaming up to participate in this fun filled event that takes place on the white

powered sand of Palm Beach right in front of Bugaloe and De Palm Pier (between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort).

There will be 3 team categories FUN (6 players), ADVANCED (4 players) and PRO (2 players). The rumor goes that a few international professional beach volleyball players will make their appearance, but this has not been confirmed



yet. Everybody is welcome to visit, even when you are not playing. The after party with Abstract Dawn starts at 6pm and will last whole evening, but the beach volleyball event starts at 9am already.

On the sand in front of De Palm Pier there will be 4 professional beach volleyball courts and the event is organized in cooperation Aruba's Volleyball Association. Cool FM will broadcast live from the beach and its popular DJ's will play the best music throughout the day. Bugaloe will have a BBQ and bars on the beach and of course there will be plenty of shade for participants and spectators.

"It's our goal to target a wide audience, so we are happy that together with main sponsor Heineken Aruba, we can offer a bottle of Amstel Bright or Heineken for just US\$ 3.00 that day," Bugaloe manager Myrthe Veltman announces. "It's going to be a fun day in the true Bugaloe tradition. Fun, friends and happiness are the key elements.

What else do you need on a Sunday?" Myrthe rhetorically asks with a smile.







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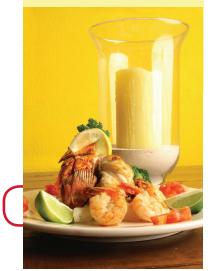
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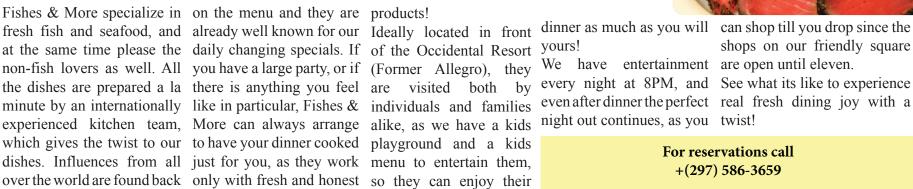




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The best Brazilian Steakhouse in Aruba! Serving the Island's most exquisite deserts...

The best salad bar can be found in



PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan. Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse alsooffersupagardenfullofhealthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

slow-roasted meats. A selection of

Restaurant open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11 Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686.□





Thursday, November 5, 2009 LOCAL



Tierra del Sol hosts wildest Halloween party







wildest Halloween Ball unfolded at Tierra del Sol around the clubhouse and more paid entrance upon arrival. Compliments



stars on Halloween night. featuring singer Michael Jackson Chando Colina of Colina – at the time when his skin was still Entertainment which organized the black -- the sound brought back amazing party in collaboration with memories from a totally awesome Tierra del Sol's food & beverage musical era.

department, Martin Haselhoef Pictured here the footloose public & Emilio Geerman, reports over of girls that just want to have fun! 1,300 tickets were sold even before Let's hear it for the boys, too! opening the party gates. Hundreds







Entertainment and Tierra del Sol country club, for a flawlessly organized party! \[\] \[\sim \mathbb{Photos by Julia Renfro} \]



































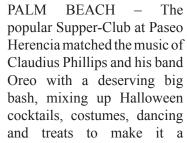


Thursday, November 5, 2009 LOCAL Thrilling Halloween Night at Mr Jazz



















Party-goes had a ghoulish good time, and photographer captured some lovely monsters, devils and witches parading their charms during the scariest night of the year.

Focusingonliveentertainment, Mr Jazz offers an Aruba Night every Tuesday featuring Aruban folklore; Romance Night on Wednesday delivers ballads, boleros and classic love songs, Jazz Night on Thursday delights Jazz lovers with the Mr Jazz Quartet, Dance Night on Friday, Salsa Night on Saturday and Sunday's Open Mike, with happy hour prices all night and a 20% discount on dinner, wraps up the weekly program













LOCAL A11 Thursday, November 5, 2009

*** Human Hints Daily ***

Gratitude Leads to Abundance

Gratitude forces us to focus on the abundance already in our lives. Everyone has abundance in their lives and your challenge is to see yours, acknowledge it, and be grateful for it. We all have abundant air to breathe. Your heart has abundant strength to beat throughout your life. If you're homeless, you might have abundant time to imagine your future and plan how to get there.

List everything that is abundant in your life. Write down everything that pops into your head, as quickly as you can.

Writing ideas down fast is one trick to listening to your Spirit, who tends to poke through when you don't have time to think. Now list the five items on your list that stir your good and bad emotions the most. When you start your day and when you go to sleep each day, focus on feeling gratitude for each specific item on your abundance list.

This will get you in touch with your personal sensation of abundance, as you align the many aspects of your self toward this feeling. When you focus on what you already have, your energy shifts from attracting lack to attracting abundance. This fundamental shift will transform your life, one moment at a time.

While necessities must be addressed, don't focus on the lack in your life, for you will empower yourself to not have enough. Focus on abundance, which is the opposite polarity of the same energy, so you're already there, you just have to switch sides. When you focus on abundance, you become aware of what you have to be grateful for.

When you embrace the sensation of Gratitude, your energy is absorbed by the Human Mass Consciousness, where it adds to the Greater Good. Your energy rearranges three dimensions

and saves lives that would have been lost without your contribution. Your expression of Gratitude directly affects people all over the world, in ways we can not possibly imagine. The balance within the Mass Consciousness is composed of everyone's intentions at all times. Be aware of what you're

contributing through your intentions.

As your energy contributes to the Whole, it grows. Your piece of Gratitude learns and evolves as it interacts with the Mass Consciousness to affect the three dimensional illusion. Your Gratitude evolves through experience in the Mass Consciousness. Then, the moment we are ready to accept it, our energy is reflected back to us, more abundant, more

pure, more powerful than ever before. When you give your life Gratitude, your life will give you plenty to be grateful for.

Every person on Earth shares the greatest gift of all. We are on Earth, in a Human Body during the most transformative energy shift Humanity has ever experienced.

What greater thrill could there possibly be? And since it's only an illusion, three dimensional experiences do not affect us beyond our exceptionally limited three dimensional body. The greatest thrill we could

possibly conceive is ultimately harmless to our true selves beyond the Illusion.

What more could we possibly ask, to be grateful for.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

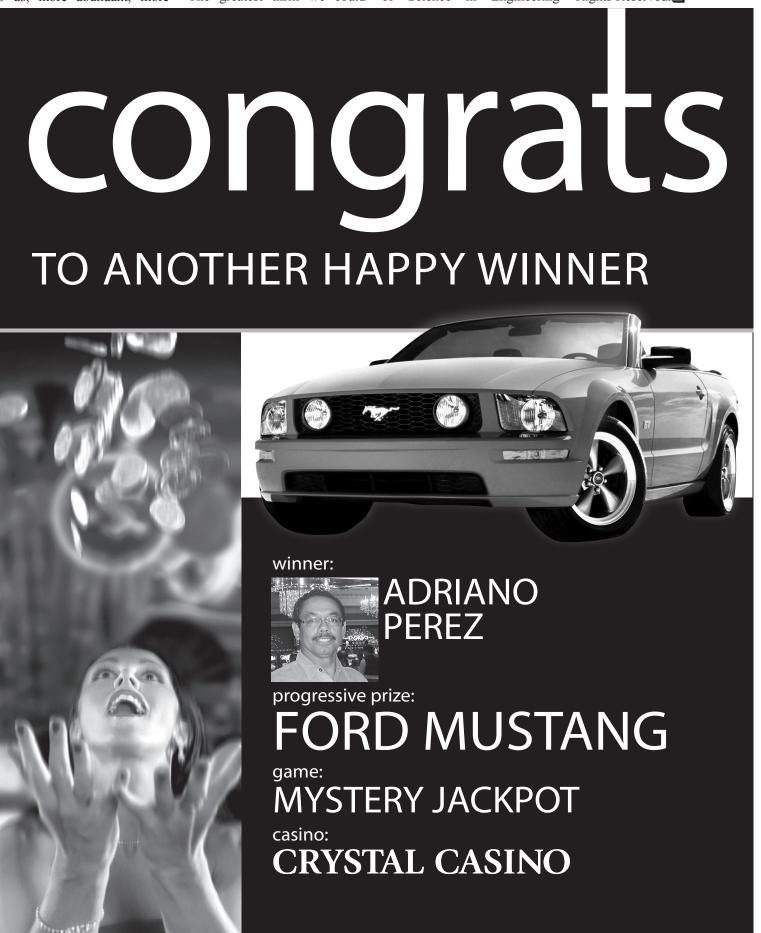
~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Thursday, November 5, 2009 LOCAL

Aruba_TODAY

NAf. 2.1M for macro-economic model and competition authority

PHILIPSBURG--St.

Maarten now has NAf. 2.1 million to begin work on a macro-economic model and competition authority, to boost its marketing stimulus programme and upgrading of economic inspection and control units.

The financial agreement was signed by Economic Affairs and Tourism Commissioner Frans Richardson and Netherlands Antilles Development Foundation USONA Director Reginaldo Doran in the Government Administration Building on

Tuesday.

These projects are part of preparing St. Maarten for country status that is to take effect on October 10, 2010. The amount released by USONA is only part of the monies available to help the island to set up needed infrastructure on its path to constitutional change. Doran said USONA was happy to assist St. Maarten with these projects that are vital to boosting and better structuring its economy.

Sector Economic Affairs, headed by Director Miguel de Weever, will now identify project leaders from within the sector to guide and develop the projects' terms of reference. Companies will be invited to submit bids in a public tender for the formation of the macro-economic model and competition authority based on the terms of reference.

For the macro-economic model, some NAf. 600,000 is available. Commissioner Richardson said the model would help to chart the impact of social and economic policies on the economy and to evaluate existing policies and policy measures, to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of government interventions in the economic process as well as provide forecasting.

For the competition authority, some NAf. 250,000 has been set aside

"In St. Maarten, we have a relatively small scale economy characterised by a limited number of suppliers in several markets. Having a limited number of suppliers of a certain product can negatively impact the price of the product. This would not be in the interest of the consumer," the commissioner said.

He said the perception also existed that any decreases in the quantity and the quality of products sold and services provided could damage the image of the island as a tourist destination. "So, what this government wants is a transparent and predictable business environment which leads to a 'level playing field' with fair competition and possibilities for new entrants to the market," he said.

The project's main objective is to improve the investment climate by removing "red tape/governmentbureaucracy" and ensuring a transparent and predictable business environment. It addresses the entrepreneurial climate as well as the investment climate in St. Maarten.

The simplification of procedures and the coinciding increase in transparency and competition of businesses in St. Maarten is expected to boost the investment climate, enhance consumer protection and improve market efficiency.

The most important results of the project are insight into the social cost and benefits of the development of the introduction of adequate legislation and eventually an independent competition authority with the necessary legislative power.

Some NAf. 300,000 will be used in the merger of the Control, Inspection and

Security Department and the Department of Economic Control, and for the training of inspectors/controllers. These two departments are responsible for enforcing rules, regulations and policies. The idea is to merge these departments in the near future into the Inspection Department for Tourism, Economic Affairs and Transport.

The funds will be used to train controllers and to draft, revise or rewrite the policies and relevant legislation.

More than one million guilders has been released for Phase II of the Marketing Stimulus programme. Tuesday's financial agreement was an addendum to the first financial agreement that was signed on September 1, which focused on marketing activities in the United States. This addendum will focus on the marketing activities in the Canadian and Dutch/Belgium market.

Funds now become available for the development of an advanced interactive media product for the marketing and promotion of St. Maarten, including the creation of a smart-phone Website. "This last project is one of great importance, considering our dependency on tourism as our main economic pillar," Richardson said.

St. Maarten gets country code 721

PHILIPSBURG--The Government of St. Maarten has been granted permission to be part of North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) and has been assigned the country code 721. NANPA made the decision on September 30.

Introduction of the 721 code will begin with a period of permissive dialling from May 31, 2010, to November 30, 2010. During the permissive dialling period, the use of either the current country code 599 or the new 721 will be acceptable for calls terminating in St. Maarten.

After the permissive dialling period ends, all calls dialled with the incorrect country code will be routed to an intercept and a recorded message instructing callers to dial the correct country and area code (1-721) will be played.

The request to enter NANPA was made on September 11, 2007, under the former DP Executive Council and former commissioner of telecommunications Maria Buncamper-Molanus. The Minister of Telecommunications and Council of Ministers were notified immediately of St. Maarten's quest to be admitted to NANPA.

"The fact that St. Maarten's economy is based primarily on tourism, whereby approximately 59 per cent of stay-over visitors are from the North American market and more than 1,000,000 cruise visitors are from the same market justifies the importance of St. Maarten adapting the NANPA," Buncamper-Molanus had said at the time.

According to Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organisations (CANTO), the benefit of being part of NANPA will be that visitors and businesses will be familiar with the dialling format. It will minimise confusion and misdialling, and will facilitate persons' accessing telephone numbers and/or services that they used in their home country or island

"For St. Maarten, it will give us a sense of integration within the Caribbean community, as well as the US and Canadian markets, access to new services which can generate more commerce and e-commerce, and the possibility of an increase in incoming calls from North American destinations," Buncamper-Molanus said. Current Commissioner in charge of Telecommunications William Marlin is on official business in the Netherlands and was not available for comment Tuesday.

NANPA explained that all domestic carriers should ensure that the 721 code is activated throughout their networks prior to May 31, 2010. A test number to verify the routing to the new code will be announced at a later date.

USM staff wants Dean's appointment annulled

~ Board 100 per cent behind new Dean ~

PHILIPSBURG--University of St. Martin (USM) workers are against the appointment of Joyce Watson as the new Dean of Academic Affairs and are calling on the board to annul the appointment.

In a statement issued by Workers' Institute for Organised Labour (WIFOL), employees said Watson was unqualified for the post and did not possess a doctorate or equivalent degree as required

However, Chairperson of the Board Lockie Johnson said the board stood 100 per cent behind Watson as new Dean and the process used to select her. Johnson added that government had granted Watson permission to apply for the position and that Watson had "extraordinary" qualifications and experience, which included being Head of the Education Department at one point.

Watson, in an invited comment last evening, said the opposition to her appointment came as a surprise, but she pledged to do her utmost to help diffuse whatever issues existed at the

institution and expressed commitment to work with all involved.

USM had said in an earlier statement that the dean-selection committee had chosen Watson, who studied education and English, after three rounds of evaluations that checked candidates' education and experience, and two interviews. Watson, USM's accreditation officer, was appointed recently, following the departure of former Dean Ron Pribble in August.

The USM staff contended that USM had always had an explicit requirement for USM deans to have a doctorate to hold the post of Dean of Academic Affairs.

Johnson said none of the five candidates who had applied for the post had possessed a doctorate, though two persons including Watson were currently pursuing studies.

The USM staff said an ad had been placed for a counterpart to the Dean of Academic Affairs on August 6, following the departure of the former Dean, which made the posting "suspect." No ad had been placed for a dean.

LOCAL A13
Thursday, November 5, 2009

For A Relaxed Dinner

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY TEL: 587-8140

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INDOOR & OPEN AIR

GEBE disputes liability due to disruption of electricity

~ Tells Chamber to direct its concerns to ExCo ~

PHILIPSBURG--Utilities company GEBE, through its attorney, says it is not liable for damages caused by the disruption of electricity. It also says its contracts with consumers stipulate that supply may be interrupted in cases of malfunction, if "work" is being carried out, or by instruction from the Island Government.

In a letter to the St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce and Industry's attorney on Tuesday, GEBE's attorney said, however, that if the chamber believed an outage was caused due to gross negligence or wilful misconduct by GEBE or its employees, it was up to the chamber to substantiate this.

GEBE's attorney also

GEBE's attorney also declined to divulge details of steps being taken to prevent disruption of electricity. He contended that the chamber could not demand any information about GEBE's business operations, but said GEBE was willing to discuss the issue of power outages with the chamber.

The attorney also advised the chamber to direct its concerns about the irregular supply of electricity to the Island Government of St. Maarten.

GEBE's comments, issued by Lexwell Attorneys, come at the end of a seven-day ultimatum given by the chamber for GEBE to explain and substantiate why it should not be held liable for damages caused by the constant power outages plaguing the island. The chamber also had asked GEBE to indicate in what manner and to what extent it intended to compensate its customers for revenues lost as a result of the outages.

Chamber President Glen Carty said Tuesday that he was "not

impressed" with GEBE's response and that the chamber would meet with its attorney this week and proceed with the "next step."

The chamber had threatened earlier to take legal action against GEBE and Carty stressed yesterday that the chamber did not make "empty threats," as the effects of an irregular electricity supply were real and impacting.

In his two-page letter, GEBE's attorney said the relationship between GEBE and individual consumers was governed by an agreement between the parties. Each agreement consisted of a registration form, signed when the consumer requested connection, together with the applicable general conditions, which excluded liability in case of electricity supply disruption or in case of any deviation in the supply.

"It further clearly stipulates that the electricity supply can be interrupted in cases of work being carried out, in cases of malfunction, or by instruction of the government. My client therefore disputes liability. It does not have to substantiate that the outages were caused without any fault on the part of my client," the attorney said in his letter.

The Chamber had contended that GEBE, as the island's sole electricity supplier, was "responsible for all damages suffered by persons or to property" as a result of the operation of its electricity enterprise, unless GEBE proved that the damages were caused without any fault on its part or that of its subordinates.

GEBE's attorney contends that the Island Territory has the responsibility for electricity concessions and, as a result, it is up to the Island Government to determine whether to grant a concession and to set the conditions of such a concession.

"It is part of the responsibility of the Island Territory to have electricity available for consumers on its island. If your client [Chamber of Commerce] feels that the electricity production is insufficient to meet the demand of the customers in St. Maarten, you would have to express your concerns to the Executive Council," the letter states.

The attorney said GEBE had obtained a concession for production and distribution of electricity to third parties. The conditions of the concession regulate GEBE's rights and obligations with regard to the Island Territory. The conditions, the attorney said, include certain procedures for review and supervision by the Island Government.

The attorney said the stipulation in the concession to which the Chamber had alluded was mentioned to make it clear that, although the island territory reviews and supervises the installations and operations of GEBE to a certain extent, it will not allow GEBE to reject any liability for damages based on the fact that its installations and operations are being reviewed and supervised by the Island Territory.

"The stipulation you refer to does not create any liability toward third parties that otherwise would not exist. It merely makes it clear that compliance with the conditions of the concession or guidelines set through the procedure of review and supervision does not exclude liability, if such liability exists based on the law. After all, a



permit and a concession are simply a permit, [and] cannot create liability toward third parties if the law does not in itself give rise to liability," the letter said.

Carty said Tuesday that what appeared to be a lack of communication among GEBE's management, SupervisoryBoardofDirectors, Shareholder Representative and the Executive Council seemed to be exacerbating the issues at the utilities company, and businesses were at the losing end.

The Chamber had turned down an earlier request from GEBE Managing Director William Brooks to meet after the ultimatum letter was sent. It had insisted on receiving a written response to its letter seeking clarity.

Commenting on a presentation expense of alter delivered recently by as generators.

Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Directors Julius Lambert about the fuel clause in GEBE's electricity invoices, Carty said he now had a better understanding of the application of the clause. He said, though, that Lambert, GEBE's former managing director, had spoken only in general terms and had declined to speak about the current situation at GEBE.

The bottom line, Carty said, is that something needs to be done to bring down the high cost of electricity in St. Maarten and to deal with the irregular supply, as this is affecting businesses. He contends that constant power outages are seriously affecting businesses, many of which have suffered loss of revenue, damage to electrical appliances and the expense of alternatives such as generators.

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Thursday, November 5, 2009 BUSINESS

Aruba_TODAY

Stocks jump as services sectors grow for 2nd month

By SARA LEPRO and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – Investors rushed into stocks after stronger reports on service industries and employment eased two of the biggest worries about the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 115 points after the Institute for Supply Management said service industry activity grew for a second straight month in October. The trade group's service index slipped to 50.6 from 50.9 in September. A reading above 50 signals growth. Analysts polled by Thomson Reuters had expected a 51.5.

Although the index didn't meet forecasts, the ISM said new orders, which are an indicator of future business activity, grew faster. Business activity also picked up.

Encouraging news about the labor market also boosted investors' mood. The ADP National Employment Report said 203,000 private sector jobs were lost in October, down from the 227,000 lost in September. It was the seventh straight month of declining job losses.

That stirred hopes for a better-than-expected employment report from the Labor Department on Friday.

The latest reports bolstered hopes that consumers could increase consumer spending, a critical factor for an economic recovery.

The advance also came as investors awaited an assessment of the economy from the Federal Reserve following the conclusion of a two-day meeting later Wednesday.

Policy makers aren't expected to raise the Fed's benchmark interest rate from essentially zero, hoping

to sustain an economic turnaround by keeping borrowing rates low. But investors will be looking for the Fed's take on the 3.5 percent annual growth rate in the economy during the third quarter and whether such growth will continue. Investors also would like more guidance on how the Fed plans to withdraw its stimulus programs without threatening the recovery.

Investors have grown fearful that the economic rebound they've been betting on over the past eight months will be fleeting, considering that job losses remain high and consumers still aren't spending freely. Stocks have zigzagged over the past few weeks amid the heightened uncertainty.

Christopher Molumphy, chief investment officer for fixed income at Franklin Templeton Investments, said the reports are encouraging though he warned improvements in the economy are likely to be gradual.

"The individual items together are continuing to point to a generally improving fundamental backdrop," he said.

In early afternoon trading, the Dow rose 117.59, or 1.2 percent, to 9,889.50. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10.27, or 1 percent, to 1,055.68, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 13.91, or 0.7 percent, to 2,071.23.

Three stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 566.9 million shares, compared with 641.4 million at the same point Tuesday.

Stocks ended mostly higher Tuesday, after swinging between gains and losses, as an increase in commodity prices and corporate dealmaking abated some of investors concerns about the economy. The



Trader Glenn Kessler, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Dow slipped 17 points, after rising 77 on Monday, while broader indexes rose modestly.

Subodh Kumar, an independent investment strategist in Toronto, said he expects volatility will remain elevated as investors look for clues about the pace of recovery in the economy.

"Right now the issue for the market is, is the news getting much better or is it just getting incrementally better," he said. Gains in several big stocks pulled the Dow industrials higher.

Chrysler Group LLC CEO Sergio Marchionne arrives for a news briefing at the automaker's headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich., Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

By DEE-ANN DURBIN and TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writers

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. – Chrysler plans to revamp its struggling Dodge car brand

Chrysler aims to revamp Dodge cars under new plan

under a new turnaround plan and says the company's cash has grown by nearly \$2 billion since it exited bankruptcy protection in June.

Under the plan, the automaker aims to introduce four new Dodges by 2013 and put new exteriors, interiors and engines on most of its current lineup. The new Dodges include a mid-size sedan for the North American market designed by Fiat SpA, the Italian automaker that now owns 35 percent of Chrysler.

That sedan is a key component of Chrysler LLC's five-year overhaul, which is being outlined here Wednesday. Chrysler currently lacks a competitive product in the segment, the largest in the U.S. car market.

But it will be tough to win back U.S. consumers, who are skeptical of Chrysler's quality. The automaker's sales are down sharply this year as a weak U.S. economy curbs overall demand for autos and buyers flee to other brands.

The 84-year-old Chrysler lost upward of \$8 billion last year and would have run out of cash had the U.S. government not stepped in with \$15.5 billion in aid. Chrysler was forced into bankruptcy protection earlier this year.

Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne said Wednesday the automaker's cash has grown by \$1.7 billion since it exited Chapter 11 this summer and totaled \$5.7 billion at the end of September. He also said Chrysler was breaking even in that month.

Chairman C. Robert Kidder said the company intends to go public and repay its loans "with all deliberate speed."

But the automaker will also need to offer better cars to improve its fortunes. Chrysler's current mid-size offerings are the Sebring and Dodge Avenger, which sell poorly and have received low marks from Consumer Reports and others.

Sebring sales were down 71 percent during the first 10 months of this year, while Avenger sales were off 45

percent. The Auburn Hills-based company has sold only 44,000 of both models combined, far short of the 294,493 Camrys sold by Toyota, the top-selling car in the U.S.

Another key to Chrysler's revival is whether it can tackle quality problems. Doug Betts, senior vice president of quality, said that work is under way.

He said the company has been restructured so the 14 teams focusing on specific areas act quickly to resolve problems.

When he arrived late in 2007, it took 71 days for someone to begin working on a problem, so the Chrysler's ability to raise its quality fell behind rivals

PEOPLE & ARTS A15 Thursday, November 5, 2009

Tom Hanks-produced '4-D' film comes to WWII Museum

By STACEY PLAISANCE, Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS – Actor Tom Hanks says viewers are in for a realistic "wartime experience" when the new film he produced, "Beyond All Boundaries," opens at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans on Friday.

The film will be shown exclusively at the museum's new Victory Theater, which includes "4-D" elements such as props, simulated winds and shaking seats. Images from Pearl Harbor to the wintry Battle of the Bulge — the final major German offensive

against the Allies — are shown on a 120-foot (36-meter)-wide screen

The film incorporates vintage film footage, animation and sensory effects so audiences can feel the rumbling of tank treads and booming of antiaircraft fire.

"This is not just a widescreen movie," said Hanks, who narrates the 35-minute film, as well as an introductory video that will be shown as viewers wait to enter the theater. "There's actual things that pop up, actual elements that come into it that put you in the environment."

Victory Theater has been a

highly anticipated attraction at the museum. The theater was built specifically for "Beyond All Boundaries" as part of a \$300 million museum expansion that is expected to continue through 2015. Federal and state funds, along with private donations, have so far generated about \$90 million for the project.

Two other additions — a canteen that will showcase musical revues inspired by USO-style productions and a restaurant called The American Sector that will be overseen by chef John Besh — are also opening Friday.

"We think of it as a World



Luis Betancourt puts a door in the restaurant called The American Sector while workers hurry to finish the Victory Theater in New Orleans Tuesday, NOv. 3, 2009 in time to show 'Beyond All Boundaries," a war film produced by Tom Hanks opening on Friday. The theater is part of a \$300 million expansion of the National WWII Museum.

(AP Photo/Cheryl Gerber)

John Lithgow's serial killer soars on 'Dexter'



In this publicity image released by Showtime, John Lithgow portrays Arthur Mitchell in a scene from the Showtime original series, 'Dexter.'

(AP Photo/Showtime, Randy Tepper)

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES – John Lithgow was going to pass on the chance to play serial killer vs. serial killer on "Dexter," with an Italian vacation, cruise and his son's wedding awaiting him.

He made it to the ceremony but postponed the trip, and he credits his very understanding wife of 28 years, university professor Mary Yeager Lithgow, with pushing him into the plum job.

"She's the one who said, 'No, you've got to take the role," he recalled.

Lithgow guest stars as Arthur Mitchell, the so-called Trinity Killer whose victims come in threes and who both repels and attracts Michael C. Hall's Dexter Morgan in the Showtime drama.

Mitchell fits the profile of those that forensics expert Dexter has judged deserve to die, but he's also a singular role model. Tempted to learn how the Trinity Killer has evaded capture, Dexter begins to make mistakes as he deviates from his protective "code," leading to a plot twist in Sunday's episode, "Slack Tide."

Lithgow, who has a nearly courtly manner and is deemed a sweetheart by colleagues, enjoys bringing the deathobsessed Mitchell to life.

"This man is very two-faced, like Dexter. A serial killer by definition is a man who presents himself in a very different way to the world," Lithgow said. "So it's an actor's field day figuring out what you reveal and what you don't." It's difficult to

push such a portrayal too far given the behavior of real-life murderers, he said.

"Every one of these stories that suddenly springs up in the news, you read it and think, 'My God, how could this possibly happen? How could a human being behave this way?' — which in a way is really liberating," Lithgow said. "You can't outdo the truth."

While "3rd Rock from the Sun" viewers fondly remember Lithgow as the egotistical, foolish alien leader passing as an Earthling, he's played more than his share of bad guys in movies.

The actor helpfully ticks off some of the titles, including "Blow Out" and "Obsession" for Brian De Palma, and "Cliffhanger," in which Lithgow adopted a British accent and particularly chilling demeanor.

Lithgow's last TV series was the short-lived comedy "20 Good Years," about two men trying to make the most of the time left them, a venture Lithgow called "very sweet and disappointing, of course, as any failed series is."

"I had a fabulous time with (co-star) Jeffrey Tambor, one of my favorite character actors. But it was a show for middle-aged old folks in a young world, so it made us feel kind of autumnal and melancholy," he said.

with a variety of things to engage visitors," said Gordon "Nick" Mueller, the museum's president and chief executive officer. "It's going to be very special."

Hanks, the star of "Saving Private Ryan" and an executive producer on the World War II miniseries "Band of Brothers" and the upcoming follow-up called "The Pacific," said the planning and making of "Beyond All Boundaries" took about five years. He said one of the toughest aspects of the project was trying to decide what elements of World War II would be represented in such a short film.

What had to be captured, "without question," Hanks said, were the economic and human costs and the war's roots in the civil rights and women's rights movements.

"We had a Jim Crow society when all that happened," Hanks said. "We still had segregated armed forces ... We asked guys to go off and risk their lives and come back home and ride in the back of the bus. There was no way that brand of injustice could continue in our country after that war."

Hanks said there was an enormous sense of pride among those affiliated with the project, including the film's creative director, Phil Hettema.

"We all kind of understood from the beginning that this is an important story to tell," Hettema said. "It's a seminal moment in our country's history and who we are today.

War II museum history park Our notion of who we are as with a variety of things to Americans was forged by engage visitors," said Gordon World War II."

Hettema said keeping the film experience authentic was important. He even incorporated authentic props, such as a 1940s radio for the broadcasting of the news of Pearl Harbor in the film. He also based a prop of a concentration camp guard tower on the design of actual towers at Buchenwald and Auschwitz.

Hanks and others affiliated with the film are slated to walk a red carpet Thursday for a private screening. On Friday there will be a military flyover and red carpet procession of World War II veterans, and entertainer Mickey Rooney is scheduled to perform with his band

The celebration will continue through the weekend with a Victory Stomp block party Saturday and a retrospective honoring the museum's founder, the late Stephen Ambrose, on Sunday.

Hanks said Ambrose's idea to put the museum in New Orleans was "an absolute home run" for both the city and the rest of the country.

Hanks has helped raise money for the museum from its start in the 1990s. It opened in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum and later was designated by Congress as the country's official World War II museum.

"I feel like I've been lucky to be a part of the building blocks of something that, in a perfect world, will last forever," he said. \square

Aruba_TODAY

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

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12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.





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The Bistro's menu offers everyone's favorites, but with a culinary Belgian twist. This might be an unusual

presentation, an awesome side dish, a stunning combination, a surprising regional dish or a dessert that takes you to heaven and back a few times. Good service and lots of smiles will surely make the Bistro one of your favorite places to go to. Open for coffee, lunch, drinks, dinner and cocktails.

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On Top Of The News

Email: arubatoday@gmail.com

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Republican Governor-elect Bob McDonnell waves to the crowd at his victory party in Richmond, Va., Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009. Unofficial results showed McDonnell, a conservative and former state attorney general, with about 60 percent of the vote over Democrat R. Creigh Deeds. He will be the state's first Republican governor in eight years.

Associated Press

White House distances itself from electoral losses

distanced itself Wednesday from Democratic losses in two states, saying the races for governor hinged on local issues and were not a referendum on President Barack Obama.

The Republican victories Tuesday in Virginia and New Jersey energized the opposition and are a setback for Obama as he struggles to overhaul the U.S. health care system, win passage of climate change legislation, and build political support for his handling of the war in Afghanistan.

They could also be ominous for Democrats ahead of next year's midterm elections, when a third of the Senate, all of the House of Representatives and most governorships are on the ballot.

But White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters that voters in both states went to the polls to work through "very local issues that didn't involve the president."

The presidential spokesman said that voters were concerned about the economy. He said "I don't think the president needed an election or an exit poll to come to that conclusion."

Before leaving for an education speech in the state of Wisconsin on Wednesday, Obama called the two Republicans who won gubernatorial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House contests on Tuesday, Chris Christie in New Jersey and Robert McDonnell in Virginia, to offer congratulations. Obama also called Democrat Bill Owens, who won a special election for a congressional seat in New York. Tuesday's elections marked some good news for Republicans, who lost control of Congress in 2006 and lost the White House last year. It will help them raise money and recruit candidates to prepare for next year's election.

Republican Party Chairman Michael Steele said the victories demonstrated "a transcendent party" that was on the move again.

Steele told CBS's "The Early Show" that he believes the Republican Party has "really found its voice again" after sustaining damaging losses last year.

In Virginia, Bob McDonnell, a former conservative state attorney general, easily defeated R. Creigh Deeds to become the state's first Republican governor in eight years. The state, once a Republican stronghold, had elected Democratic senators in 2006 and 2008. Last year, Obama was the first Democratic presidential candidate to win the state since 1964. McDonnell won with nearly 59 percent of the vote.

Continued on Page B4

Fire worsens second day of Philly transit strike



The aftermath of a burned train is seen in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. A Philadelphia commuter train caught fire Wednesday, complicating the morning rush already hampered by the city's transit strike. Officials said no injuries were reported.

Associated Press

By PATRICK WALTERS

Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA - Commuters biked, walked, juggled carpool schedules and hitched rides as the city's transit system ground to a near halt for a second day Wednesday, a rush worsened when a regional rail train caught fire.

Continued on Page B5



A ship identified by Ephraim Alter, CEO of Allalouf Shipping, as Francop, an arms ship seized by Israeli authorities near Cyprus Wednesday, anchors in the port of the Israeli city of Ashdod, Israel, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. Israeli naval commandos seized a ship Wednesday that defense officials said was carrying more than 60 tons of missiles, rockets and anti-tank weapons from Iran to Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Associated Press

Israel: commandos seize Hezbollah-bound arms ship

AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli commandos seized a ship Wednesday that defense officials said was carrying hundreds of tons of weapons bound for Lebanon's Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas — the largest arms shipment Israel has ever commandeered.

The Israeli military said an Iranian document was found on board, showing that the arms shipment originated from Iran, although the paper was not shown to reporters.

Continued on Page B7

Aruba_TODAY

Three senators join forces to rescue climate bill



As Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn. speaks at right, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., left, and Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. huddle during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, to discuss climate change legislation.

By DINA CAPPIELLO Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – A trio of senators with differing political views is working behind-the-scenes to rescue troubled climate legislation. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., together with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., said

Associated Press

Wednesday they would work in conjunction with the White House to patch together a bill that could pass the U.S. Senate. The three senators met individually with Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Carol Browner, the president's assistant for energy and climate change. Our effort is to try to

reach out to broaden the base of support ...," Kerry said at an afternoon news conference. "The key here is to really negotiate once, in a sense." Graham, who has come under fire in his home state for his support of action on climate change, said working on legislation was a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to solve two problems: heat-trapping carbon dioxide pollution and the country's dependence on foreign sources of fuel.

"If environmental policy is not good business policy, you will not get 60 votes," Graham warned. "The green economy is coming. We can either follow or lead." The announcement came as a key Senate panel for a second straight day delayed voting on any changes to a climate and energy bill introduced in late September by Kerry and Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., because no Republicans showed Republican

lawmakers are demanding a more thorough economic analysis of the measure, which would reduce heat-trapping gases by 83 percent by 2050, saying it will raise energy prices and cause job losses. But the bill, which would set up a market for pollution permits, has also raised concerns among moderate Democrats, including Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. Kerry, Graham and Lieberman stressed Wednesday their "dual track" for climate legislation would not usurp Boxer's efforts, or the work of five other committees that have jurisdiction over energy and climate policy. The Senate energy panel has already cleared a bill that would require more electricity to come from renewable sources. and would extend offshore oil drilling into parts of the eastern gulf of Mexico that are now off limits. "We are all working on a strategy to get a 60-vote

bill written," said Boxer, who said that from the beginning she had asked Kerry and other senators to drum up support outside her committee. To do so, the senators said they would take the best pieces of the Kerry-Boxer bill and add more incentives for nuclear power and offshore drilling that could bring some Republicans and moderate Democrats on board.

Tony Kreindler, a spokesman for the Environmental Defense Fund, said the three senators "have given a new life to a bipartisan process."

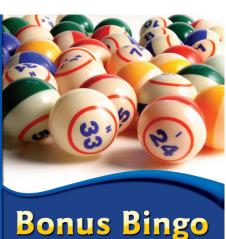
Left unanswered was how long the new process would take. Kerry said he would not be bound by a specific time frame. But with a month left until 192 nations gather in Copenhagen, Denmark to hammer out a new international treaty to slow global warming, the Obama administration and Democrats are under pressure to show movement on a climate bill



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U.S. NEWS B3
Thursday, November 5, 2009

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laine voters reject gay-marriage law, allow marijuana

DAVID CRARY **GLENN ADAMS**

Associated Press Writers

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Voters in the northeastern state of Maine repealed a state law that would have allowed same-sex couples to wed, dealing the gay rights movement a heartbreaking defeat in the corner of the country most supportive of gay marriage.

Gay marriage has now lost in every single state — 31 in all — in which it has been put to a popular vote. Gay-rights activists had hoped to buck that trend in Maine — known for its moderate, independentminded electorate — and mounted an energetic, wellfinanced campaign.

With 87 percent of the reporting, gayprecincts marriage foes had 53 percent of the votes.

"The institution of marriage has been preserved in Maine across the nation," declared Frank Schubert, chief organizer for the winning side

Gay-marriage supporters held out hope that the tide would shift before conceding defeat at 2:40 a.m. in a statement that insisted they weren't going away.

"We're in this for the long haul. For next week, and next month, and next year — until all Maine families are treated equally. Because in the end, this has always been about love and family and that will always be something worth fighting for," said Jesse Connolly, manager of the progay marriage campaign.

At issue was a law passed by the Maine Legislature last spring that would have legalized same-sex marriage. The law was put on hold after conservatives launched a petition drive to repeal it in a referendum.

The outcome Tuesday marked the first time voters had rejected a gay-marriage law enacted by a legislature.

When Californians put a stop to same-sex marriage a year ago, it was in response to a court ruling, not legislation.

Five other states have legalized gay marriage — starting with Massachusetts in 2004, and followed by Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Iowa — but all did so through legislation or court rulings, not by popular vote. In contrast, constitutional amendments banning gay marriage have been approved in all 30 states where they have been on the

The defeat left some gaymarriage supporters bitter.

"Our relationship is between us," said Carla Hopkins, 38, of Mount Vernon, with partner Victoria Eleftherio, 38, sitting on her lap outside a hotel ballroom where gay marriage supporters had been hoping for a victory party. "How does that affect anybody else? It's a personal thing."

The contest had been viewed by both sides as certain to have national repercussions. Gay-marriage foes desperately wanted to keep their winning streak alive, while gayrights activists sought to blunt the argument that gay marriage was being foisted on the country by courts and lawmakers over the will of the people.

Had Maine's law been upheld, the result would probably have energized efforts to get another vote on gay marriage in California, and given a boost to gay-marriage bills in New York and New Jersey.

Earlier Tuesday, before votecounting began, gay-marriage foe Chuck Schott of Portland warned that Maine "will have its place in infamy" if the gayrights side won.

Another Portland resident, Sarah Holman said she was "very torn" but decided — despite her conservative upbringing — to vote in favor of letting gays marry.

"They love and they have the right to love. And we can't tell somebody how to love," said Holman, 26. In addition to reaching out to young people who flocked to the polls for President Barack Obama a year ago, gay-marriage defenders tried to appeal to Maine voters' pronounced independent streak and liveand-let-live attitude.

The other side based many of its campaign ads on claims — disputed by state officials — that the new law would mean "homosexual marriage" would be taught in public schools

Elsewhere on Tuesday, voters



Frank Schubert, campaign director for Stand for Marriage Maine, claims victory for Yes on 1, Tuesday evening, Nov. 3, 2009, in Portland, Maine. Question 1 was the proposal to rescind the Legislature's approval of same-sex marriage

Associated Press

in Washington state voted on Toledo. Four similar measures whether to uphold or overturn a recently expanded domestic partnership law that entitles same-sex couples to the same state-granted rights as heterosexual married couples. With half the precincts reporting, that race was too close to call.

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, voters approved a measure that bars discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Among other ballot items across the U.S.:

— In Ohio, voters approved a measure that will allow in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and had been defeated in recent years, but this time the state's reeling economy gave extra weight to arguments that the new casinos would create thousands of jobs.

Maine voters defeated a measure that would have limited state and local government spending by holding it to the rate of inflation plus population growth. A similar measure was on the ballot in Washington state.

— Another measure in Maine, which easily won approval, will allow dispensaries to supply marijuana to patients for medicinal purposes.





Thursday, November 5, 2009 POLITICS



Republican Governor-elect Chris Christie greets supporters on election night at his headquarters in Parsippany, N.J. on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009.

Associated Press

ELECTORAL LOSSES Continued from Page B1

McDonnell's Republican supporters were delirious. A victory party crowd screamed, waved signs and chanted "Go, Bob, go!" when he was declared the victor.

In the traditionally Democratic of New state Jersey, Republican Chris Christie, a former corruption-busting federal prosecutor, narrowly defeated Gov. Jon Corzine, a billionaire former Wall Street executive, by a margin

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of 49 percent to 45 percent. Independent candidate Chris Daggett had about 6 percent. In both states, independent voters who had been crucial to Obama's victory last year voted overwhelmingly for the Republican candidate.

Democrats took some solace winning the closely watched special election for a Republican-held vacant seat in the 23rd Congressional District in New York state that highlighted fissures between moderates and conservatives in Republican ranks.

before Tuesday's Long the White House vote, rejected suggestions that the gubernatorial elections would be tantamount to referendums on Obama. Indeed, the votes took place in just two of the 50 U.S. states. Local issues and personalities dominated campaigns.

Still, exit polls showed more than four in 10 voters in Virginia said their view of Obama factored into their choice. Those voters roughly split between expressing support and opposition for the president. The Obama factor was similar in New Jersey, though there were slightly more voters who said the president did not factor into their choice.

Obama had inserted himself into the races, campaigning for both Corzine and Deeds appearing in their advertisements. But Obama's popularity has faded some since the early days of the presidency and clearly wasn't strong enough to make a

difference in the campaigns. That point will not be lost on

moderate Democrats seeking re-election in conservative districts and states.

They may be reluctant to back Obama on issues like climate change and health care if it means antagonizing local voters — especially if Obama lacks the political heft to carry them through the next election.

Interviews with voters leaving polling stations in both Virginia and New Jersey were filled with reasons for Democrats to be concerned and for Republicans to be optimistic, particularly about independents, who often determine the outcomes of U.S. elections.

Independents played a critical role in Obama's victory last year. But after more than a year of recession, they fled from Democrats in the two states, where the economy trumped all other issues.

Associated Press exit polls showed that nearly a third of voters in Virginia described themselves as independents, and nearly as many in New Jersey did. They preferred McDonnell by almost a 2-1 margin over Deeds in Virginia, and Christie over Corzine by a similar margin.

Last year, independents split between Obama and Republican John McCain in both states.

Democratic Party Chairman Tim Kaine said the shift among independent voters was difficult to interpret.

scratch our heads a little bit on that one," he told CNN. He added that Obama continues to enjoy even stronger support among independent voters than he has in the past.

trubu TODAY

In both states, the surveys also suggested the Democrats had difficulty turning out their base, including the large numbers of first-time minority and youth voters whom Obama attracted.

In other races Tuesday, voters in the northeastern state of Maine rejected a state law that would allow same-sex couples to wed. If supporters had prevailed, it would have marked the first time that the electorate in any state endorsed gav marriage.

With 87 percent of the precincts reporting, gay-marriage foes had 53 percent of the vote.

A number of cities selected mayors. Billionaire Michael Bloomberg won a third term as New York mayor in a closerthan-expected race against Democratic challenger who stoked voter resentment over the way the incumbent changed the city's term-limits law so he could stay in office. With all precincts reporting, Bloomberg defeated city comptroller William Thompson Jr. 51 percent to 46 percent.

Bloomberg called it a "hardfought victory in a very difficult year" and promised that New Yorkers "ain't seen nothing yet" from him.

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4rubu TODAY

source: Ex-NYC top cop Kerik plans guilty pl

By TOM HAYS and JIM **FITZGERALD**

Associated Press Writer

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. -Bernard Kerik, a former New York City police commissioner and one-time nominee for Homeland Security secretary, will enter a guilty plea to resolve three pending criminal trials, a person familiar with the case said Wednesday.

Kerik plans to enter the plea in a federal courtroom on Thursday in a deal that could bring him a recommended prison term of around 2 1/2 years, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The person was not authorized to discuss the

TRANSIT STRIKE

Continued from Page B1

Regional rail lines are running because their

workers are represented by a different union.

But trouble hit around 7 a.m. when a car caught

fire as it headed downtown, causing delays

and confusion. Southeastern Pennsylvania

Transportation Authority officials said it was

likely an electrical fire and was not suspicious.

More than 5,000 members of SEPTA's largest

union walked off the job early Tuesday, leaving

thousands of people struggling for ways to get

around without the use of subways, trolleys or

"I can't take the whole strike off," said Niki

LaGrone, 27, a Catholic school teacher in North

Philadelphia, as she prepared to take regional

rail as far as it goes and then walk a mile and a

half to school. "I'm going to have to show up.

... Hopefully, I can find somebody when I get

The Philadelphia school district reported a

16 percent drop in high school attendance

Wednesday. On an average weekday, about

54,000 public and parochial students take

At the J.R. Masterman high school, Robin

Carpenter unloaded a bicycle from his father's

car so he could make the 7-mile ride home in

"I do ride my bike sometimes but not during

cross-country season," he said, adding that the

Karen Pollack scrambled to find ways to get

her 16- and 13-year-old daughters to and from

Pollack lives in the city's Germantown section

and left about 15 minutes earlier to drop off her

younger daughter at Masterman. Her husband

dropped off their older daughter at a school

strike was an inconvenience. "It's too tiring."

in to work to help me out."

SEPTA to school.

the afternoon

their respective schools.

about 5 miles from home.

plea negotiations publicly.

Kerik, who won wide praise for his steadiness running the NYPD at the time of the 9/11 attacks, technically would have faced up to 140 years in prison if convicted of all the charges pending against him in White Plains and Washington. Federal sentencing guidelines, however, likely would have led to a shorter term.

Kerik originally pleaded not guilty.

He pledged to fight the charges when he was indicted two years ago. He appeared steely and stoic through most of the long pretrial process until Oct. 20, when he was suddenly jailed for sharing secret pretrial information.

Soon after going behind bars, Kerik spent 10 days in the jail's psychiatric unit. At a pretrial session Oct. 26, he slumped forward in his chair and hung his head at the defense table.

The first trial was set to begin Monday.

In that case, Kerik was accused of accepting renovations to his Bronx co-op apartment in exchange for recommending a company that was looking to do business with New York City.

The company was being investigated for alleged ties to organized crime.

Kerik was also accused of concealing the gift from

said. "It's going to be day-to-day."

Jim Jordan, an assistant general manager for SEPTA, said the regional rail car that caught fire was about 40 years old, one of many slated to be replaced soon. The origin of the blaze was probably in the heating or electrical system, Jordan said, and the entire fleet will be inspected once the cause is determined.

Flames could be seen shooting from the front of the train shortly after 7 a.m. A big cloud of smoke also billowed from the train. No injuries were reported, but hundreds of riders had to be evacuated.

Wayne Rafferty, 27, of Pottstown, a lab technician at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said he had to calm down another passenger on the packed train, and he saw other passengers kicking out the removable emergency windows. Once outside the train, he took a picture of the front of it with flames and smoke.

"I already texted in the photos to my boss. I said, 'This was my train," he said. "He said he'll see me when he sees me, so I'm going to start making the hike." Rafferty estimated that it would take about an hour to walk to his workplace.

The sudden strike by Transport Workers Union Local 234 has all but crippled the system, which averages more than 928,000 trips each weekday. The union walked away from negotiations on a new contract over disagreements on wage, pension and health care issues.

Union president Willie Brown said the main issue is pensions.

"My members stand strongly behind me," Brown said a news conference Wednesday, adding that he hopes to meet with Gov. Ed Rendell in the next day or two. "Even though we did not want to strike, we were forced into a strike."

SEPTA General Manager Joe Casey also said he planned to talk to Rendell.

Some riders said they weren't feeling much compassion.

"I know I make less than they do, so I'm not that sympathetic right now," LaGrone said.

investigators and from the Internal Revenue Service. The final count in the first trial alleged that when Kerik was being considered for a Homeland Security advisory position, he denied having any "questionable business affiliations."

The trial was expected to last about six weeks. Then Kerik was to face a second trial in White Plains on various tax charges; the third case, in Washington, accused him of lying to the White House during his Homeland Security vetting.

Lawyers never said whether Kerik or his mentor, former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, would testify. Both sides had asked Robinson to question potential jurors about their feelings toward Giuliani. And the judge, disclosing that he once worked for Giuliani, said the former mayor "may become an issue."

When the case broke in 2007, it was an embarrassment to Giuliani, a Republican who was running for president. Giuliani had named Kerik police commissioner, had gone into private business with him and had pushed President George W. Bush to make the Homeland Security nomination.



FILE - In this June 4, 2009 file photo, former New York City police Commissioner Bernard Kerik stands outside the Federal Court in Washington, after pleading not guilty to charges of lying to the White House while being vetted to be Homeland Security secretary. Kerik is displaying worrisome, risky behavior in jail, a federal judge said Friday Oct. 30, 2009 after speaking with the jail's psychiatric director. Kerik has been jailed since Oct. 20 to await trial on corruption charges.

Associated Press

Bush nominated Kerik in December 2004 to replace Tom Ridge, the nation's first head of the Department of Homeland Security. Kerik withdrew his name a week later, citing immigration and tax issues over a former nanny.

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Getting them home could be a challenge, though, since her older daughter usually takes SEPTA. Now, she's going to walk the 15 or so blocks to her sister's school and hopefully find a spot in that car pool — if there's room.

"It was a little stressful last night," Pollack

Thursday, November 5, 2009 WORLD NEWS

Iran opposition protesters return to streets



This photo, taken by an individual not employed by the Associated Press and obtained by the AP outside Iran shows Iranian antiriot police officers directing people during an anti-government protest, on the sidelines of state-sanctioned rallies to mark the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Embassy takeover, in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. Iranian security forces beat anti-government protesters with batons and fired tear gas

ALI AKBAR DAREINI Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The contrasts were vivid: Progovernment supporters chanted "Death to America" and stomped on U.S. flags Wednesday while not far away, hundreds of opposition protesters denounced Iran's leaders and appealed to

America's president to choose sides.

"Obama, Obama, you are either with them, or with us," the anti-government protesters chanted in Farsi, in an amateur video clip widely circulated on the Internet.

The new and startling appeal to President Barack Obama came as Iran's opposition protesters returned to the streets in large numbers for the first time in nearly two months. Authorities were ready with the same sweeping measures they used to quell fierce election-fraud protests this summer and early fall: Sending paramilitary units to key locations to fire tear gas and beat people with batons.

Witnesses said they heard a man, apparently working for a paramilitary group, shout "Beat him up, beat him up," as he chased a protester in the crowd. "How is it possible to see such cruelty," another protester cried as he stood on the street, according to the same witnesses, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fear of reprisals.

The protests showed the determination of Iran's opposition to reassert its voice. But the latest marches drew far fewer demonstrators than in the summer or even September, suggesting the relentless pressure by authorities could be taking a toll. In Washington, the White House called for an end to the violence against anti-government protesters. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Obama administration leaders "hope greatly that violence will not spread."

The administration has pursued talks with Iran's government even as it has pushed for more concessions on Iran's controversial nuclear program. Obama said in a statement Tuesday that he wanted the U.S. and Iran to move beyond "suspicion, mistrust and confrontation."

The day — marking the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Embassy takeover — has major symbolic importance for Iran's leaders.

Thousands of people attended a pro-government rally called to mark the anniversary, chanting "Death to America" and walking over and stomping on U.S. flags outside Washington's former embassy.

Just blocks away, hundreds of opposition marchers in Haft-e-TirSquaredenouncedPresident Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with

protesters returned to the cries of "Death to the Dictator" streets in large numbers for and trampled a poster of the first time in nearly two Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali months. Authorities were Khamenei, witnesses said.

In all, several thousand protesters joined the marches in various spots across the city. But those numbers were far smaller than at the height of the outrage after claims that Ahmadinejad stole the election by fraud this summer.

Themainmarches were quickly dispersed by security forces — including paramilitary forces and militiamen linked to the powerful Revolutionary Guard — who used clubs and tear gas, said other witnesses, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fear of reprisals from authorities.

Mobile phones were disrupted as was Internet access and text messaging, in another echo of the summer. Yet amateur video like the one appealing to Obama still was posted on Web sites, showing protesters in fall clothes and coats in Tehran's streets.

Media restrictions now limit journalists to covering state media and governmentapproved events, such as the rally outside the former embassy.

Pro-reform Web sites said police fired into the air to try to clear Haft-e-Tir square — about half a mile from the former U.S. Embassy. The report could not immediately be independently verified.

Some demonstrators were injured and arrested, witnesses said, but a clear number could not be independently obtained. There were no reports of serious injuries.

In many ways, it was a replay of the last time opposition groups took to the streets in mid-September to coincide with another state-sponsored rally — that one to denounce Israel. But those marches brought tens of thousands of protesters and a more militant response — with protesters throwing stones and setting fires ablaze.

The smaller turnout raised questions about the long-term stamina of the opposition after facing months of arrests.

"I don't think the opposition is as able to get as many

people in the streets as they were after the election," said Alireza Nader, an Iran affairs analyst for RAND Corp. in Washington. "But today's events show there is still opposition that is willing to come out."

Aruba TODAY

The opposition movement has also evolved since the election fallout touched off Iran's worst internal unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Protests still wear the green colors that symbolized the campaign of Mir Hossein Mousavi, who claims Ahmadinejad stole the election from him through rigged ballots.

But it has now expanded into a catchall movement for complaints that include the unlimited powers of the ruling clerics, Iran's sinking economy and its international isolation. Its wider reach has managed to draw in other political leaders and clerics who have challenged Ahmadinejad and his allies.

"I think the long-term crisis for the government isn't over," said Nader. "There is still a strong sense that the Ahmadinejad government is not legitimate."

A pro-reform Web site said militiamen on motorcycles prevented Mousavi from leaving his office to attend the marches. Another leading opposition figure, Mahdi Karroubi, fell to the ground after being overcome by tear gas, according to a posting by his son Hossein on Karroubi's Web site. Karroubi did not need medical attention, his son said. The full scope of Wednesday's protests was difficult to determine. Some opposition groups reported demonstrations in other cities such as Shiraz and Isfahan. Authorities had warned protesters days in advance against attempts to disrupt or overshadow the annual gathering outside the former embassy, which was stormed by Iranians in 1979 in the turbulent months after the Islamic Revolution.

Fifty-two Americans were held hostage for 444 days, and the two nations have never resumed diplomatic ties.



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WORLD NEWS B7 Thursday, November 5, 2009



ISRAEL: COMANDOS Continued from Page B1

"It's a cargo certificate that shows that it was from a port in Iran," military spokeswoman Lt. Col. Avital Leibovich said. "All the cargo certificates are stamped at the ports of origin, and this one was stamped at an Iranian port."

The Israelis boarded the ship before dawn in the waters near Cyprus. Israel has long accused Iran of arming its enemies.

Rear Admiral Roni Ben-Yehuda, the deputy Israeli navy commander, told a briefing that "hundreds of tons" of weapons were found on the ship, giving a much higher estimate than an earlier one of more than 60 tons.

Ben-Yehuda added the weapons were "a drop in the ocean" of arms being shipped to Hezbollah. But hours after the seizure, Israel had not provided proof that the arms were meant for the Lebanese guerrillas.

In the southern port Israeli city of Ashdod where the ship was towed and docked, hundreds of rockets and piles of boxes of grenades were stacked on the shore as Israeli forces unloaded the cargo, a process that was expected to take hours.

Israel and Hezbollah fought a bitter war in the summer of 2006 that ended with a occasional flare-ups occur.

Wednesday's seizure was bigger than a similar haul in 2002, when Israeli military confiscated a vessel with 50 tons of missiles, mortars, rifles and ammunition headed for Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip.

The presence of Iranian proxies in the Mideast have combined with worries over Tehran's nuclear program and arsenal of long-range missiles to make Iran the Jewish state's most formidable foe.

Israel shares the West's fears that Tehran is developing nuclear weapons, despite its assertions to the contrary. Neutralizing the Iranian nuclear threat remains Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's top priority and Israel has not ruled out a military strike against Tehran's nuclear facilities.

Ben-Yehuda said weapons, including Katyusha rockets, were stashed on a commercial vessel operating under the guise of an aid ship, captained by a Pole and flying an Antiguan flag.

Based on intelligence reports, a naval unit patrolling the area intercepted and boarded the vessel without incident, defense officials said.

Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai said the crew was not aware of the cargo's contents. The ship, U.N.-brokered cease-fire, but Francop, is operated by United

Feeder Services, a Cyprusbased shipping company that said it picked up the cargo in Damietta, Egypt.

An employee of the company's chartering department who would not identify himself said the ship had been bound from Egypt to Cyprus and from there to Lebanon and Turkey. He said the company did not know what was inside the containers or where the cargo originated.

The employee asked that his name not be used because the company had yet to formulate an official response.

UFS' niche is bringing cargo to small ports not called by big container ships.

A senior Lebanese army official refused to comment on the Israeli report, saying it happened outside Lebanon's national waters. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations.

A Hezbollah official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he did not want to speak publicly to the media. said the Islamist movement had no comment on Israel's claim.

"We are following the case and we will see if it is worth a comment," he said.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak called the interception "another success against the relentless attempts to smuggle weapons to bolster terrorist elements threatening Israel's



Francop, an arms ship seized by Israeli authorities near Cyprus Wednesday, anchors in the port of the Israeli city of Ashdod, Israel, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. Israeli commandos seized a ship Wednesday that defense officials said was carrying hundreds of tons of weapons from Iran bound for Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas, the largest arms shipment Israel has ever commandeered.

Associated Press

security." Netanyahu said the arms supply "was intended to hit Israeli cities."

The vessel was the second major arms ship Israel has seized in its campaign to quash the smuggling of weapons to Palestinian and Lebanese militants, following the January 2002 storming of the Karine A freighter on the Red Sea, when Israeli forces confiscated the 50 tons of arms allegedly destined for Gaza militants.

Other countries, including the United States last month, have stopped ships suspected of carrying arms in the past.

The Lebanon-Israel border has been largely quiet since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, although Israel has long warned that Hezbollah fighters have been rearming and now possess some 40,000 rockets. Gaza militants also have dramatically reduced their rocket attacks on southern Israel since a bruising winter war. But militants continue smuggle in rockets and components through underground tunnels with Egypt, the Israeli military says.

On Tuesday, the head of military intelligence said militant Gaza's Hamas rulers recently test-fired a missile capable of striking Israel's largest urban center, metropolitan Tel Aviv.

4ruba TODAY

ltalian judge convicts 23 in CIA kidnap (



Italian Judge Oscar Magi is seen at the Milan court, Italy, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. An Italian judge on Wednesday began deliberating the fate of 26 Americans and seven Italians accused of kidnapping an Egyptian terror suspect in 2003, the first trial in the world involving the CIA's extraordinary rendition program. After a nearly three years of hearings, Judge Oscar Magi heard final rebuttals before beginning deliberations. A verdict was expected later Wednesday.

Associated Press

COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press Writer

MILAN (AP) — An Italian Wednesday iudge on convicted 23 Americans in absentia of the 2003 kidnapping of an Egyptian cleric from a Milan street, in a landmark case involving CIA's extraordinary rendition program in the war on terrorism.

Citing diplomatic immunity,

Judge Oscar Magi told the Milan courtroom Wednesday that he was acquitting three other Americans.

Former Milan CIA station chief, Robert Seldon Lady, received eight years in prison.

The other 22 convicted American defendants each received a five-year sentence.

identified by prosecutors as CIA agents, were tried in absentia as subsequent Italian governments refused ignored prosecutors' extradition request.

Washington, In CIA spokesman George Little declined to comment on the convictions. He said, "The CIA has not commented on any of the allegations surrounding Abu Omar," the kidnapped man.

Lawyers for the 23 convicted Americans said they would appeal the convictions. The Americans remain fugitives from Italian justice and prosecutor Armando Spataro said he was considering asking the government to issue an international arrest warrant on the strength of the conviction. The government of Silvio Berlusconi, a close ally of President George W. Bush, has previously refused.

Magi said he was acquitting five Italian defendants because an Italian high court ruled key evidence inadmissible as classified. Two of the Italian defendants were convicted as accomplices to kidnapping and received three-year sentences.

The verdict "sends strong signal of the crimes committed

The Americans, all but one the CIA in Europe," said Joanne Mariner of Human Rights Watch. The crimes were "unacceptable and unjustified," said Mariner, who was in the courtroom for the verdict at the end of the nearly 3-year-long trial. The Americans accused of kidnapping Osama Moustafa Hassan Nasr, also known as Abu Omar, on Feb. 17, 2003, in Milan, then transferring him to U.S. bases in Italy and Germany. He was then moved to Egypt, where he says he was tortured. He has since been released, but has not been permitted to leave Egypt to attend the trial.

> The trial is the first by any government over the CIA's extraordinary rendition program, which transferred suspects overseas interrogation. Human rights advocates charge that renditions were the CIA's way to outsource the torture of prisoners to countries where it is permitted.

> The Milan proceedings have been a sore spot in relations between the United States and Italy. The CIA has declined to comment on the case, and Italy's government has denied involvement.

Among the Americans acquitted was Jeffrey Castelli, a former Rome CIA station chief, who prosecutors had alleged coordinated the abduction. The two other acquitted Americans were assigned to the U.S. Embassy in the Italian capital and thus were covered by broad diplomatic immunity.

The trial continued despite obstacles that threatened to derail it, including Rome's refusal to cooperate with prosecutors.

In addition, Italy's highest court ruled some key inadmissible evidence because it is considered classified — including dossiers seized from the Rome apartment of an Italian intelligence agent and the testimony of a carabinieri officer allegedly at the scene of the kidnapping. That ruling was cited in the acquittal of the main Italian defendants, including the former head of military intelligence.

The government's will to enforce the verdict against the Americans, however, is unlikely to be tested any time soon.

Sentences in Italy aren't served until all appeals are exhausted, a process that can take years.

The court also ruled that those convicted must pay 1 million euros to the Egyptian in damages and 500,000 euros to his wife





U.S. officials meet Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — The U.S. wants better relations with military-ruled Myanmar if it makes concrete steps toward democracy, a senior American diplomat said Wednesday after holding the highest-level talks with the junta and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 14 years.

Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said he explained Washington's new policy, which reverses the Bush administration's isolation of Myanmar, also known as Burma, in favor of dialogue with a country that has been ruled by the military since 1962.

The goals of the new policy are "strong support for human rights, the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners and the promotion of democratic reform," Campbell said in a statement at the end of his two-day visit.

Campbell and his deputy, Scot Marciel, are the highest-level

Americans to visit Myanmar since 1995.

Earlier Wednesday, Campbell, the top State Department official for East Asia, greeted Suu Kyi with a handshake after she was driven to his lakeside hotel in Yangon where they met privately for two hours, U.S. Embassy spokesman Richard Mei said. The content of the talks was not immediately known.

Suu Kyi, 64, has been detained for 14 of the past 20 years. Dressed in a pink traditional Burmese jacket, she was upbeat as she emerged from the hotel.

"Hello to you all," she said to photographers before getting into the car that whisked her back to her tightly guarded home.

Myanmar's junta has praised the new U.S. policy, but shown no sign it intends to release Suu Kyi or initiate democratic and electoral reforms demanded by Suu Kyi's party ahead of elections planned for next year.

But the military government has made some gestures, such as loosening the terms of Suu Kyi's house arrest and allowing her more meeting with visitors such as Campbell, in hopes that the U.S. will ease political and economic sanctions.

Campbell said he told junta officials that the U.S. "is prepared to take steps to improve the relationship but that process must be based on reciprocal and concrete efforts by the Burmese government." Campbell was continuing talks he began in September in New York with senior Myanmar officials, which were the first such high-level contact in nearly a decade. He met Wednesday morning with Prime Minister Gen. Thein Sein, Mei said.

Campbell said he emphasized that Myanmar "should abide by U.N. resolutions with regards to proliferation." He



Myanmar's detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, center, exits the Inya Lake Hotel after meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell in Yangon, Myanmar, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. Campbell met Suu Kyi on Wednesday in a visit that marked the highest-ranking talks between an American and Myanmar's detained opposition leader in 14 years.

Associated Press

did not elaborate, but was apparently referring to arms purchases from North Korea. There is also some speculation, though no evidence has been made public, that Myanmar is seeking to develop nuclear weapons with North Korea's

help.
State television, which on Tuesday ignored the Americans' visit, broadcast footage of Campbell's meetings with both Suu Kyi and the prime minister.

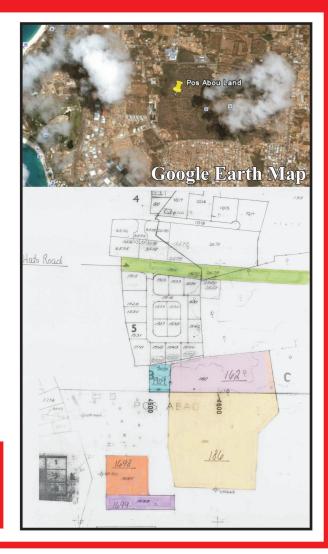
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Thursday, November 5, 2009 SPORTS



SPURIS LANGE TO DAY

NHL Roundup

Osgood's shutout helps Red Wings beat Bruins 2-0

DETROIT (AP) — Henrik Zetterberg and Tomas Holmstrom scored in the first period, and Chris Osgood finished with his first shutout of the NHL season to give the Detroit Red Wings a 2-0 win over the Boston Bruins.

Osgood made 29 saves Tuesday. He also got help from the posts behind him to prevent a goal in both the first and second periods for the 50th shutout of his career.

Tim Thomas had 24 saves for Boston, which fell under .500 with their third loss in four games.

Penguins 4, Ducks 3

At Anaheim, California, Pascal Dupuis scored the go-ahead goal with 10:47 to play as Pittsburgh tied an NHL record with its seventh straight road victory to open the season



Detroit Red Wings goalie Chris Osgood reaches to stop a Boston Bruins' Marco Sturm shot as Pavel Datsyuk, of Russia, defends in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Detroit, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2000

Associated Press

Federer reaches quarterfinals at Swiss Indoors

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Roger Federer reached the quarterfinals of the Swiss Indoors by beating Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-3, 6-3 on Wednesday.

The three-time defending champion served solidly to make it six matches against the 51st-ranked Seppi without dropping a set. "It was a bit tougher (than the first round), but I was able to raise my game at a few crucial moments and that was the difference," said Federer, who rested through October.

"I recuperated and worked a bit to get in shape and can play maybe this (late) season in good health, which last year wasn't the case."

Fifth-seeded Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic beat France's Florent Serra 3-6, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (1) to also advance.

In the first round, fourth-seeded Marin Cilic beat Philipp Petzschner of Germany 6-4, 6-4 to keep alive his chances of qualifying for the ATP Tour finals in London.

The 21-year-old Croat, a wild-card entry, likely needs to win the Swiss Indoors and do well at the Paris Masters next week to make the eight-player lineup at London. He is currently 12th.

Third-seeded Fernando Gonzalez also is in finals contention at 10th on the list. The 2005 Basel champion was playing John Isner of the United States in the late match.

Another rival for a London place, No. 11 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, has an injured left wrist and retired from his match Wednesday at the tournament in Valencia, Spain.



Switzerland's Roger Federer greets the fans after winning his round of sixteen match against Italy's Andreas Seppi during their round of sixteen match at the Davidoff Swiss Indoors tennis tournament in Basel, Switzerland, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009.

Associated Press

In other first-round action, Stanislas Wawrinka rallied to beat Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4.

The sixth-seeded Swiss was treated for a shoulder injury after the first set. Ljubicic was the last man to beat Federer at his home event, in 2003. Jeremy Chardy toughed out a 7-6 (4), 6-7 (6), 6-4 victory over seventh seed James Blake from the U.S. The 22-year-old Frenchman sent down 24 aces and got the only service break of the match to open the third set.

"It was a beautiful victory," Chardy said, who is on course to meet Federer in the quarterfinals. "I could have won the match earlier, but James is a good player and like all good players he made some good shots at important times." Richard Gasquet of France defeated Horacio Zeballos of Argentina 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Michael Rupp, Kris Letang and Alex Goligoski also scored and Marc-Andre Fleury made 26 saves for the Penguins, who matched the seven season-opening road victories of the 1940 Toronto Maple Leafs, the 1985 Philadelphia Flyers and the 2005 Detroit Red Wings. New Jersey also is 7-0 on the road so far this season.

Corey Perry scored two goals for the Ducks, who have lost six of seven.

Thrashers 5, Canadiens 4

At Montreal, Colby Armstrong scored 13:14 into the third period as Atlanta earned its first regulation win in Montreal in over five years.

Armstrong scored his second of the season to restore Atlanta's one-goal lead just 24 seconds after Montreal drew even for the second time in the third.

Rich Peverley had a goal and two assists, including his third point of the game with a crosscrease setup pass on Pavel Kubina's power-play goal that gave the Thrashers a 4-3 edge 4:10 into the third period.

Tomas Plekanec drew Montreal even at 4 with his fourth goal at 12:40.

At Toronto, Ryan Malone scored at 2:21 of overtime to give Tampa Bay a victory over Toronto.

Malone's goal stood up after a video review.

Vincent Lecavalier also scored for the Lightning (5-4-4), who won their first road game of the season (1-4-1).

Ian White replied for the Maple Leafs (1-7-5), who have lost four straight games in extra time and remained winless at home.

In other NHL games, Detroit 2, Boston 0; Tampa Bay 2, Toronto 1, OT; Atlanta 5, Montreal 4; Pittsburgh 4, Anaheim 3; and Vancouver 4, N.Y. Rangers 1.□

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Halfway around the world, Tiger, Phil meet again

DOUG FERGUSON **AP Golf Writer**

SHANGHAI (AP) — Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson across from each other in a mock game of Chinese checkers against the spectacular backdrop of Shanghai's trendy Bund district. Later, they posed with the HSBC Champions

The world's best two players have been taking part in plenty of photo opportunities together lately.

Only six weeks ago in Atlanta, they shared the spotlight at the Tour Championship when Mickelson won the tournament by three shots over Woods, and Woods hoisted the FedEx Cup trophy. Then came a trophy they shared at the Presidents Cup, where both produced unbeaten records in San Francisco.

Halfway around the world, they are going at it again.

Despite a 78-man field from 23 countries at this World Golf Championship — the strongest field ever assembled in Asia — Woods and Mickelson remain the top attraction.

"I'm excited that Tiger and I are able to compete in the same event here in China," Mickelson said Wednesday on the eve of the HSBC Champions Sheshan at International Golf Club. "I think that it will provide some exposure to the game of golf throughout the country, and I'm hopeful that we compete head-to-head over the weekend, and are both in contention."

The HSBC Champions might be the appropriate way to celebrate a phenomenal year for golf in Asia.

Y.E. Yang of South Korea made history in two respects at the PGA Championship, becoming the first Asianborn golfer to win a major and the first player to win a major where Woods had the lead going into the final round. Only a week ago, the first Asian Amateur Championship was staged

at Mission Hills Golf Club denying this tournament has in China, with the winner awarded a spot in the Masters next year and an exemption into the final stage of British Open qualifying.

The year ends with the first World Golf Championship in Asia that counts toward the world ranking.

"I'm looking forward to it. I think everyone is," Woods said. "Having this now become a World Golf Championship, I think everyone is very excited about what this tournament means in the scope of things, not just here in China but in all of Asia. As a player, we are looking forward to playing this golf course against such a great field."

The field includes defending champion Sergio Garcia, three-time major winner Padraig Harrington, British Open champion Stewart Cink and Lee Westwood, who is leading the Race to Dubai on the European Tour.

Woodsisnostrangertoplaying overseas, having played at least one international tournament every year since his pro debut in 1996. But while that familiar spinning globe — the World Golf Championship logo — is now found on the bright red signs around the course, there is no a different feel.

HSBC has expanded its promotional effort to the point that it had sand in the bunkers on the practice range painted red, its corporate color. It also had pictures of Woods, Mickelson, Harrington, Geoff Ogilvy and Paul Casey painted on elevator doors at the official hotel.

Advance tickets sold at double the rate compared with last year, a product of Woods returning to Shanghai, the tournament being upgraded to WGC status and the appearance of 18-year-old Ryo Ishikawa of Japan.

One Chinese boy no more than 10 was so excited to see Woods that he raced under the ropes with a camera draped around his neck to get a clear shot, only for a security guard to gently scoop him up and put him back in the gallery.

Hysteria erupted on the 14th hole when Woods and caddie Steve Williams stopped for a bathroom break, with Williams leaving the golf bag just off the tee. Within seconds, some 50 fans had it surrounded, gawking as though a meteorite had fallen on Sheshan International. One woman giggled as she timidly stroked the Kiwi head cover on Woods' 3-wood until

HSBC◆ (□ ± ◆

Phil Mickelson of the U.S., right, and his compatriot Tiger Woods, left, play Chinese chess during a photo call of the HSBC Champions golf tournament Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009 in Shanghai, China. The golf tournament will be held at Shanghai Sheshan International Golf Club from Nov. 5 to 8.

Associated Press

security shooed her away.

Even the excursions Shanghai's massive metropolis have been adventurous, as cars weave six-wide along three-lane highways.

"Amazing," Nick Watney said. "The lanes are more like suggestions."

The list of champions at Sheshan International is impressive. Garcia won last vear, pushing him to a careerhigh No. 2 in the world rankings. The year before belonged to Mickelson in his first sanctioned international victory. And while not many knew him at the time, Yang introduced himself in 2006 by finishing two shots ahead of Woods.

"The biggest memory is of sitting with Tiger during the awards ceremony," Yang said. "Having my picture taken tournament.

with Tiger was probably the biggest thrill."

That was nothing compared with Yang taking Woods apart at Hazeltine, then hoisting his golf bag over his shoulders after winning the PGA Championship. Yang said he is not quite as relaxed at the HSBC Champions as he was three years ago.

"There's a little more pressure, I guess," he said. 'Maybe it's because Tiger is here. Maybe it's because I've been through a lot of tournaments. Maybe it's because of the stress finally trickling down. As I told you, I'm trying to take it as just an ordinary tournament."

From red sand in the practice range bunkers to Woods and Mickelson leading a world-class field, there is nothing ordinary about this

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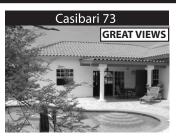
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NBA Roundup

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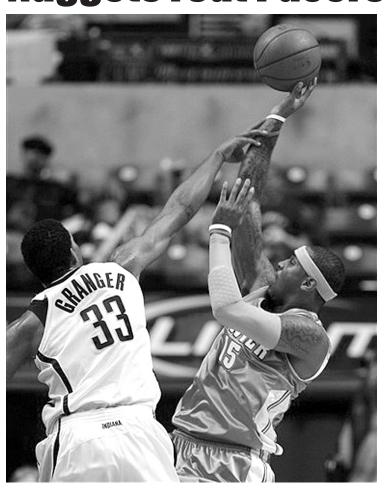
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Nuggets rout Pacers to remain unbeaten



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, right, puts up a shot against Indiana Pacers forward Danny Granger during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and Chauncey Billups added 24 to help the Denver Nuggets beat the Indiana Pacers 111-93 on Tuesday for their best start in 24 years.

Anthony, who was averaging 38 points, shot just 6-for-17 from the field but made 11 of 14 free throws. Nene added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets (4-0), who are off to their best start since the 1985-86 season.

Former Denver guard Dahntay Jones led the Pacers with 20 points, and Danny Granger added 18 for Indiana (0-3).

Celtics 105, 76ers 74

At Philadelphia, Paul Pierce scored 21 points and Rasheed Wallace had 20 as Boston remained unbeaten with a victory

over Philadelphia.

The Celtics are unbeaten in five games, even without the usual standout performances from Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen.

Allen didn't score his first field goal until the third quarter and had five points. Garnett made just one basket on seven shots and scored three points when he was yanked with the game out of hand.

Andre Iguodala led the Sixers with 17 points. Philadelphia missed 15 of 16 3-point attempts.

Cavaliers 102, Wizards 90

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 27 points and Shaquille O'Neal added a season-high 21 while wearing out Washington's big men as Cleveland beat Washington for its third straight win

Mo Williams scored 15 and Daniel Gibson 14 for the Cavs, who made nine 3-pointers in the second half — four in the fourth quarter when James was out. Williams and Gibson were a combined 7-for-9 on 3s.

Caron Butler and Gilbert Arenas scored 22 apiece to lead the Wizards.

Pistons 85, Magic 80

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Ben Gordon scored 23 points and Rodney Stuckey added 20 as the short-handed Detroit handed Orlando its first loss of the season.

Detroit's Tayshaun Prince saw his streak of 496 straight games played end as he was sidelined with a back injury. Prince last missed a game on April 13, 2003 — during his rookie season — against Memphis.

The Pistons also got 20 from third guard Will Bynum, while Vince Carter led Orlando with 15. Dwight Howard had just eight points and five rebounds in 17 minutes before fouling out.

At Miami, Steve Nash scored 30 points and added eight assists as Phoenix used a dominant fourth quarter to beat Miami in a matchup of NBA unbeaten teams.

Amare Stoudemire finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds for Phoenix, which overcame its largest deficit of the season and used a 13-4 run over the middle portion of the fourth to pull away. Jason Richardson scored 10 of his 14 points in the final period for the Suns, who are 4-0 for the first time since the 2004-05 season.

In other NBA games it was. Denver 111, Indiana 93; Boston 105, Philadelphia 74; Cleveland 102, Washington 90; Phoenix 104, Miami 96; Detroit 85, Orlando 80; Chicago 83, Milwaukee 81; L.A. Lakers 101, Oklahoma City 98, OT; Dallas 96, Utah 85; and Atlanta 97, Portland 91.

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Gobierno venezolano anuncia plan para ahorrar energía eléctrica

CARACAS (AFP) - El gobierno venezolano anunció este miércoles un paquete de medidas que incluye exoneraciones fiscales, restricciones al consumo y un mayorcontrolenlaimportación de electrodomésticos, entre otros, y tiene por fin ahorrar energía eléctrica para aliviar a un sistema colapsado.

La sequía y un consumo irresponsable fueron señalados por los responsables locales como los factores que explican la situación crítica de este sector, nacionalizado en 2007. Además, los responsables gubernamentales reconocieron la necesidad de incrementar las inversiones para mejorar la eficacia y aumentar la generación del sector eléctrico que ha sufrido cuatro importantes apagones de

alcance nacional en el último

"Este es un plan integral para tener una calma en lo que son los megavatios del sistema e incentivar a la población para generar el ahorro en el sector eléctrico", declaró el ministro de Electricidad, Angel Rodríguez, en una rueda de prensa.

En primer lugar, se aprobó un decreto para exonerar del pago del impuesto sobre el valor añadido (IVA) a las importaciones de todos los materiales necesarios para actividades de generación y transmisión de energía eléctrica.

orar Además, se aprobaron tres ntar resoluciones: Una para reducir ctor y controlar el consumo de atro electricidad en el sector de público, otra para incrementar la autogeneración de energía y una última para vetar la llegada al país de aparatos de consuman excesiva energía como ciertos tipos de aire acondicionado.

"Hay sectores empresariales que tienen capacidad de autogeneración, es decir que tienen plantas instaladas y podrían inyectar al sistema nacional su consumo tradicional", citó Rodríguez, prometiendo incentivos en el pago de combustible para estas empresas.

Rodríguez explicó además que en los organismos públicos, que consumen un 14% del total de la energía eléctrica, se predicará con el ejemplo y se harán planes de ahorro concretos.

"Los termostatos de aire acondicionado no estarán



por debajo de 24°C, habrá que apagarlos una hora antes de que termine el horario de trabajo, se apagarán durante los días no laborables", citó el ministro.

Cumpliendo estas medidas, se podría llegar a ahorrar un 20% de energía, según el gobierno. Por su parte, el ministro de Energía y Petróleo, Rafael Ramírez, resaltó que el consumo per capita de electricidad en Venezuela es el más alto de la región y llega a 4.165 kilovatios (Kw) por hora.

"Es decir, el doble que en Colombia y 1.000 Kw por encima de Chile, que es el segundo país con consumo más alto", subrayó.

"Existe un despilfarro de la energía y un patrón de consumo motivado por el modelo (político) que estamos intentando superar en el país", agregó.

Según Ramírez, el gobierno de Hugo Chávez ha instalado 4.299 megawatios en los más de 10 años que lleva en el poder, "el doble que en los diez años anteriores".

El responsable estimó que para 2014, se introducirán 8.370 Mw nuevos de los cuales 3.100 mw procederán de la generación hidroeléctrica y el resto de la termoeléctrica.

La demanda de electricidad en Venezuela es de 17.000 megavatios (MW) actualmente, muy superior a la generación actual, y crece entre un 6 y un 8% anualmente. Según expertos, el sector eléctrico requiere inversiones de unos 18.000 millones de dólares hasta 2014.

El martes, Chávez lamentó el derroche de energía y pidió a sus conciudadanos que cambien poco a poco sus hábitos y por ejemplo usen una linterna para ir al baño por la noche en lugar de encender las luces.

El mandatario también previó inspecciones en las grandes empresas privadas y pidió que se corte el suministro de energía a las instituciones del Estado cuyo derroche quede demostrado.

Además de los problemas eléctricos, los venezolanos sufren una importante escasez de agua y desde el pasado lunes, los habitantes de Caracas son objeto de racionamientos de agua que pueden durar hasta 48 horas por semana y se extenderán hasta mayo, cuando comienza de nuevo la estación de lluvias.

Reporte final:

Turbulencia causó caída avión mexicano en 2008

MEXICO (AP) - El gobierno mexicano concluyó el martes que la turbulencia generada por la estela de una aeronave mayor fue la causa del desplome de un avión oficial a finales de 2008 en la ciudad de México y que provocó la muerte de 16 personas, incluido el secretario de Gobernación y el ex zar antidrogas.

El reporte final de la investigación en torno al percance ocurrido el 4 de noviembre de 2008 estableció que los pilotos del Learjet 45 demoraron en reducir la velocidad conforme se acercaba al aeropuerto internacional de la ciudad de México, lo cual provocó que se acercara demasiado a un Boeing 767 comercial que dejó la estela.

El coordinador del equipo de investigación por parte del gobierno mexicano, Gilberto López Meyer, dijo en rueda de prensa que hubo factores humanos que contribuyeron al percance, como la capacitación inadecuada de la tripulación para operar ese tipo de aeronaves, la fatiga acumulada de los controladores de tránsito aéreo que impidieron corregir el acercamiento excesivo de los aviones.

Dijo que también se conjugó una situación atmosférica "muy estable" ese día.

"Y las atmósferas estables contribuyen a que la turbulencia de estela permanezca durante más tiempo", dijo. El también director de Aeropuertos y Servicios Auxiliares dijo que "no se encontró evidencia alguna de una falla mecánica" y tampoco "se encontraron alteraciones médicas, toxicológicas o psicológicas en la tripulación del vuelo".

Menos de una hora después de haber partido del aeropuerto del estado norteño de San Luis Potosí el 4 de noviembre de 2008, la aeronave oficial se desplomó en una zona lujosa de la ciudad de México el Learjet 45 en el que viajaban nueve personas, incluidos el secretario de Gobernación Juan Camilo Mouriño y el ex fiscal antidrogas José Luis Santiago Vasconcelos. Todos fallecieron en el impacto. Cinco personas que estaban en tierra también fallecieron y en el transcurso de las siguientes semanas murieron dos personas más que resultaron lesionados, para elevar la cifra total de muertos a 16.

El gobierno sostuvo desde el 14 de noviembre de 2008 la hipótesis de la turbulencia como la causa del percance. La caída del avión desató especulaciones iniciales sobre un posible atentado por parte del crimen organizado, que ha ido en aumento en los últimos años.

López Meyer explicó que los pilotos demoraron en reducir la velocidad de 220 a 180 nudos como se lo solicitó la torre de control del aeropuerto capitalino.



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